

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-14.

Listing of Claims

15. (New) A method of accelerating the growth rate of a prematurely-born human infant by administering to said infant a composition comprising a seven carbon fatty acid or derivative thereof.
16. (New) The method of Claim 15, where said seven carbon fatty acid comprises n-heptanoic acid.
17. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said seven carbon fatty acid comprises a triglyceride comprising n-heptanoic acid.
18. (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein said triglyceride comprises triheptanoin.
19. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-methylhexanoate, 4-methylhexenoate, 3-hydroxy-4-methylhexanoate, 5-methylhexanoate, 5-methylhexenoate and 3-hydroxy-5-methylhexanoate.
20. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said seven carbon fatty acid or derivative is a substituted, unsaturated or branched chain seven carbon fatty acid.
21. (New) The method of any of Claims 15 to 20, wherein said composition is provided for consumption in one or more doses, and said doses comprise about 15 to about 40% of the dietary caloric requirement for said infant for 24 hours.
22. (New) The method of any of Claims 15 to 20, wherein said composition is provided for consumption in one or more doses, and said doses comprise about 20 to about 35% of the dietary caloric requirement for said infant for 24 hours.

23. (New) The method of any of Claims 15 to 20, wherein said compound or derivative thereof is provided to said human infant in an amount comprising at least about 25% of the dietary caloric requirement for said infant.

24. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein said compound or derivative is provided enterally.

25. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein said compound or derivative is provided enterally.

26. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said compound or derivative is provided enterally.

27. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein said compound or derivative is provided parenterally.

28. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein said compound or derivative is provided parenterally.

29. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said compound or derivative is provided parenterally.

30. (New) A method for accelerating the growth rate of a prematurely-born human infant, comprising administering to said patient a seven-carbon fatty acid chain composition whereby said infant rapidly obtains nutrition from odd carbon fatty acid β -oxidation metabolism, and wherein said composition is adapted for consumption in one or more doses, and said doses comprise about 15 to about 40% of the dietary caloric requirement for said infant for 24 hours.

31. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein said seven-carbon fatty acid composition comprises n-heptanoic acid.

32. (New) The method of Claim 30 or 31, wherein said composition is administered via enteral administration.

33. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein said enteral administration is oral

34. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein said enteral administration is through a feeding tube.

35. (New) The method of Claims 30 or 31 wherein said administration is parenteral.

36. (New) The method of Claim 30 or 31, wherein said composition further comprises infant formula.